AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Original) A gaming apparatus, comprising:

a display unit;

a value input device;

a controller operatively coupled to said display unit and said value input device, said controller comprising a processor and a memory operatively coupled to said processor,

said controller being programmed to receive downloadable gaming data from a data storage device external to said gaming apparatus;

said controller being programmed to receive encrypted gaming data from said data storage device, said encrypted gaming data having been generated by performing a hash function on gaming data to form a first message digest and by doubly encrypting said first message digest utilizing a private encryption key of a gaming data authoring organization and a private encryption key of a gaming regulatory organization;

said controller being programmed to doubly decrypt said encrypted gaming data utilizing a public encryption key of said gaming data authoring organization and a public encryption key of said gaming regulatory organization to form a decrypted message digest;

said controller being programmed to perform a hash function on said downloadable gaming data to generate a second message digest; and

said controller being programmed to compare said decrypted message digest with said second message digest to determine if said downloadable gaming data is authorized.

2. (Original)   A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said data storage device comprises a portable data storage medium on which said downloadable data was stored when said portable data storage medium was at a location external to said gaming

apparatus and wherein said portable data storage medium is physically moved so that it is operatively coupled to said gaming apparatus in order to transfer said downloadable gaming data to said controller.

3. (Original) A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said controller is programmed to receive downloadable gaming data that comprises substantially all gaming data that is necessary to facilitate play of a casino game.

4. (Original)   A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 1,

wherein said controller is programmed to receive from said data storage device encrypted gaming data that was generated by triply encrypting said first message digest utilizing said private encryption key of said gaming data authoring organization, said private encryption key of said gaming regulatory organization, and a private encryption key of a casino, and

wherein said controller is programmed to triply decrypt said encrypted gaming data utilizing said public encryption key of said gaming data authoring organization, said public encryption key of said gaming regulatory organization, and a public encryption key of said casino to form said decrypted message digest.

5. (Original)   A gaming system comprising a plurality of gaming apparatuses as defined in claim 1,

wherein said gaming system additionally comprises a central computer operatively coupled to each of said gaming apparatuses, said central computer comprising a memory, and

wherein said controller is programmed to receive said downloadable gaming data from said memory of said central computer.

Claims 6 – 22 (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended)   A gaming apparatus as defined in claim [[19]] 1 wherein said display unit comprises a video display unit that is capable of generating video images.

24. (Original) A gaming apparatus as defined in claim 23,

wherein said controller is programmed to cause a video image comprising an image of at least five playing cards to be displayed if said game comprises video poker,

wherein said controller is programmed to cause a video image comprising an image of a plurality of simulated slot machine reels to be displayed if said game comprises video slots,

wherein said controller is programmed to cause a video image comprising an image of a plurality of playing cards to be displayed if said game comprises video blackjack,

wherein said controller is programmed to cause a video image comprising an image of a plurality of keno numbers to be displayed if said game comprises video keno,

wherein said controller is programmed to cause a video image comprising an image of a bingo grid to be displayed if said game comprises video bingo.

Claim 25 (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended)   A method of operation of a gaming apparatus, said method comprising:

receiving at said gaming apparatus downloadable gaming data from a data storage device external to said gaming apparatus;

receiving encrypted gaming data from said data storage device, said encrypted gaming data having been generated by performing a data-abbreviating function on gaming data to form first abbreviated gaming data and by doubly encrypting said first abbreviated gaming data utilizing [[an]] a private encryption key of a first gaming organization associated with a gaming data authoring organization and [[an]] a private encryption key of a second gaming organization associated with a gaming regulatory organization;

doubly decrypting said encrypted gaming data utilizing [[an]] a public encryption key of said first gaming organization and [[an]] a public encryption key of said second gaming organization to form decrypted gaming data;

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performing a data-abbreviating function on said downloadable gaming data to generate second abbreviated gaming data; and

comparing said decrypted gaming data with said second abbreviated gaming data to determine if said downloadable gaming data is authorized.

27. (Original) A method as defined in claim 26 additionally comprising causing a game display representing one of the following games to be generated: poker, blackjack, slots, keno or bingo, if said downloadable gaming data is authorized.

28. (Original) A method as defined in claim 26 comprising receiving said downloadable gaming data from a computer at a location remote from said gaming apparatus.

29. (Original) A method as defined in claim 26 wherein said data storage device comprises a portable data storage medium on which said downloadable data was stored when said portable data storage medium was at a location external to said gaming apparatus and wherein said portable data storage medium is physically moved so that it is operatively coupled to said gaming apparatus in order to transfer said downloadable gaming data to said controller.

30. (Original) A method as defined in claim 26 comprising receiving said encrypted gaming data along with said downloadable gaming data.

31. (Original) A method as defined in claim 26 comprising receiving said encryption key of said first gaming organization and said encryption key of said second gaming organization.

Claims 32 – 48 (Canceled)